

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

ed-Din. Now more than a score of papers appeared, most of them conspicuous for their xenophobia and strongly anti-British attitude. In their avowed political programs they ranged through a multitude of shades, from light pink to outright red.¹⁸ Even a few conservative papers accepted and printed Soviet communiques, while the openly Communist *Haqiqat* ("Truth") and *Eqdam* ("Advance") incited the working masses and the youth of Iran, respectively, against the ruling classes, the aristocracy, and capitalism. The style of the articles, their themes, and the type of invectives in most of these papers betrayed a common source of inspiration. The violence of the anti-British articles caused quite a few diplomatic incidents between the government and the offended British Minister in Teheran. As a result of the latter's protests, *Setareh Iran*, *Tufan*, and *Jlaqiqat* were temporarily suspended. This, however, only gave Rothstein an excuse for further intervention and display of a "liberal" spirit. He gave asylum to the editors of these papers in the Soviet Legation and intervened with the Iranian government in favor of the freedom of the press, guaranteed by the Constitution of 1906.¹⁹ To add weight to his words, the Communist-inspired union of typographical workers went on strike, and the Communist faction of the Majlis strongly demanded from the government the cancellation of the suspension order. After about two and a half months of struggle, the government gave up and on September 9, 1928, permitted the reissue of the suspended papers. This victory was exalted by the Soviet expert on Iran, Vladimir Ossetrov, when he wrote in *Nm/y Voslolt*:

The victory of the journalists is decisive for Persia. The si

niggle linked all
the dispersed forces and laid the foundations for cordial
reciprocal relations
between the editors, the workers, and the OWIUTS of
priming presses. An-
other difficult victory to be attained by the Persian press is
the elevation of
its moral and political level, the attainment of its full
freedom of opinions,
founded on economic independence, and the struggle
against the existing
methods of political venality, from which only one part of the
press, progres-
sive, democratic, and socialist, has succeeded in
emancipating itself.²⁰

detailed list and description of the newspapers and
periodicals that ap-
peared in 1921-1932 may be found in Ducrocq, *op. cit.*
*i*Novy Vostok*, II (1922), 627 IT.
²⁰ *ibid.*, p. 629.